

TOYOSAWA et al
Serial No. 09/598,169
June 2, 2004

REMARKS

This supplemental Amendment After Final Rejection should be entered because it places the claims 14, 32, 33 and 34 in better condition for appeal, if an appeal becomes necessary. 37 C.R.F. §1.116.

Claim 14 has been amended to state that the level difference compensating film under the pad metal is substantially completely removed. This feature is described in the application at, for example, page 29, line 11 to page 30, line 23 and is shown in Figure 5.

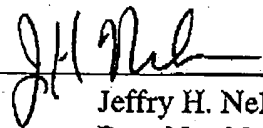
Claims 32 to 34 have been amended to make more clear that the level compensating film is coplanar with a lower layer of the interlayer insulating film.

All claims are in good condition for allowance. If any small matter remains outstanding, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' attorney. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



Jeffrey H. Nelson
Reg. No. 30,481

JHN:maw
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100